REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13 and 14 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 11 are the only independent claims and each have been amended. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0037266 (Schroeder) in view of U.S. Patent 6,697,844 (Chan et al.). Claims 3, 6, 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Schroeder in view of Chan et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,852,717 (Bhide et al.). Applicant submits that the independent claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of identifying a server from a client terminal having a browser, a memory device and a processor, the server and the client terminal being connectable with each other via a communications network. The method includes the steps of: a) transmitting a first request packet from the browser to the server; b) receiving the first request packet at the server and transmitting therefrom server specific information to the browser, indicating a server in which shared data file is maintained; c) receiving the server specific information at the browser and invoking the processor to hand over the received information to the processor; d) transmitting a second request packet from the processor to a server specified by the received server specific information; and e) receiving the second request packet at the specified server and transmitting therefrom the shared data file to the processor and storing the transmitted shared data file in the memory device. The method further includes the step f) of transmitting a third request packet from the processor to the specified server and transmitting therefrom to the processor differential data representing a difference between a the shared data file currently maintained by the specified server and the shared data file that was transmitted in step (e) from the specified server to the processor.

Schroeder relates to an image server system that provides access to image files located in an image file server. However, Schroeder contains no teaching of the transmission of the third request packet recited in step f).

Chan et al. shows a system in which "differential encoding is performed in the server such that the server transmits to the client information indicative of the *differences between the requested object and the reference (similar) objects available in the server cache*. A corresponding decoding operation is performed in the client, using the encoded version and reference objects available in the client cache." Abstract (Emphasis added).

This is not the same as the technique recited in claim 1, in which the differential data is the difference between the version of the object at the server and the same file sent at step e) to be stored in the memory device *at the client*. In contrast, in Chan et al., such differential data is related to other files *also stored at the server*. Chan's technique is described in detail with reference to Figure 4 and exploits the notion of similarity between multiple documents (i.e., the object and a group of other documents, all at the server side) to reduce the amount of transfer necessary. See col. 8, lines 12 through 54.
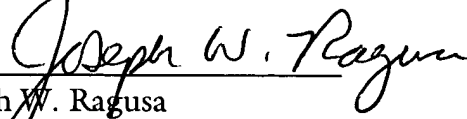
For at least this reason, claim 1 is believed clearly patentable over Schroeder and Bhide et al. The other amended independent claims recite a substantially similar feature and are believed patentable for substantially the same reasons.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

8

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Dated: September 2, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

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